

[SRP file copy]

10/31/84
Lakeland H.S.

DWP—

once again I am at Lakeland. Today it's English for senior high school and I am John Harkin. Believe it or not, in my first period class we read and discussed *Antigone*. No day has been going down hill ^{intellectually} since then. Last period I "baby sat" for about 20 Vo-Tech guys, all seniors, and each more "tough" than the preceding. I have no problem with such so-called "tough" Seventh graders, however, I can do without. I tried to plant the bulbs, surtout the crocus, around the tombstones but did not succeed in doing so. I decided, instead, to plant the tulips and crocuses in a half-moon shaped bed not far from the stone wall on the west lawn. I can hardly wait for Spring when they blossom. How I do love Spring bulb flowers, especially tulips.

No question must be asked: Will you attend the "Wine and Cheese Reception" at AXA? What is the house dog's name? Has he/she met Pooch? Do there really people wearing hats in the composite photograph?

Daisy Diamond flasks are beautiful. Water would be wonderful in such a flask. No beauty of the glass would be obscured were we to put wine in the flask, for example. [I don't recognize the existence of white wine.] Thank you for the Klingender. I shall incorporate the data on the first railway locomotive in history into my O & H program. Thank you, as well, for the reduced copies of my "poxy-watering photograph." NE Louise Anderson enough is surely enough. I can't believe that she would have the audacity to reject some of your work. Your G. Fay correspondence is quite extraordinary. From "out of the blue" to send you the most personal of letters.

How well I understand your desire to not allow anything to accumulate on your desk. I have been trying, since the mid 1960's (about 20 years) to clean off my desk top -- I never succeed. Sighs, pence à vous. I am getting much better, however, at keeping ahead of the daily deluge of paper and information to be recorded & stimuli.

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No envelope in which you mailed your 10/25/84 letter was bejewelled by a dazzling philatelic assemblage. Of course, I have "laid in" a good supply of Eleanor Roosevelt stamps. One of your recent letters, ^{10/24/84} had 2 E.R. stamps on it that were not cancelled. I removed them ^{from the envelope} and sent them back to you herewith/hereon. I don't understand your system: sometimes you mail a typed original and sometimes you don't. You must certainly do whatever you do prior to mailing with conscious intent.

Thank you for the notice on Elli Island. I will make a serious attempt to watch what should be an excellent series of three programs. Perhaps I will do so at the Golf Course. Is Klingender another one of those persons who is as well known as Barzun? for example. I've never heard of Klingender.

Yes, I will read "Crossing the Bar" at your burial (should you predecease me). You say — "...read this... poem over my ashes as I am buried..." — do you to be cremated? At the moment, I can't decide if I want to be buried in Maplewood or in Eldorado. There's room in both places for several more bodies. I loved your three lines about Sir Winston's funeral. It must have been magnificent. I heard on the radio yesterday, Purcell's (?) "Music on the death of Queen Mary..." As it played I said to myself — "well, this has possibilities." The Browning "Home-Coming from Abroad" has long been one of my favorites. Thanks for the fresh copy.

Doubtless you will seek NEH funding to study studio photography.

Not "Mrs Given Dond" but "Mrs GWEN Dond." — I must have dotted by error part of the "W"

As you will see when you receive this week's *Newer*, City Hall is to be "decked out" in twinkling lights this year (p. 5); also, please note the nice Steamtown/CHS+M article on p. 12.

I will perhaps write more later on & so on, but I did want to "respond" to your 10/24 & 10/25 letters before things got too confusing. Regards — S. Lobut